



Environmental Fact Sheet

Hazardous Waste Minimization: Interim Final Guidance for Generators

The concept of waste minimization enjoys widespread support and achieves one of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) primary goals of preventing or minimizing the generation of hazardous waste. To this end, the Agency is developing guidance to help hazardous waste management organizations and facilities design satisfactory programs that fulfill the provisions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and that meet their specific waste management and economic needs.

Background

RCRA sets national policy that emphasizes the importance of reducing or preventing the generation of hazardous waste. It also contains provisions to promote implementation of waste minimization programs at hazardous waste management facilities. Under those provisions, hazardous waste generators must certify that they have a waste minimization program in place to reduce the volume or quantity and toxicity of their waste to the degree they determine to be economically practicable. Owners and operators of facilities that receive a permit for the treatment, storage, or disposal of hazardous waste that they generate on the premises also are required to make the same certification at least once a year.

Action

EPA is issuing interim final guidance that describes the basic elements of a hazardous waste minimization program and defines the term *waste minimization*. The term waste minimization includes source reduction, or preventing waste from being generated in the first place (using the legal definition of source reduction that is found in the Pollution Prevention Act) and certain forms of recycling. (Those forms of recycling that closely resemble conventional waste management practices are not included in the definition.)

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